

CHARLIE CRIST

13TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

www.crist.house.gov

215 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5961

696 1ST AVENUE NORTH, SUITE 203
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701
(727) 318-6770

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0913

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

DEFENSE

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

ENVIRONMENT

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Robert R. Redfield, Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Director Redfield,

Thank you for your service to the country under the most trying circumstances.

As the Representative for Florida's 13th Congressional District, I write with great concern regarding the failure of the United States government to make COVID-19 tests available. As you must surely be aware, widespread testing is one of the best ways to slow, control, and stop the spread of a pandemic. Unfortunately, the United States ranks among the very worst in the world in per capita testing rates. South Korea has reached a testing rate of over 4,000 tests per one million people. In Italy, that number is over 1,000 tests per one million people. In the United States, we are under 100 tests per one million people. This is unacceptable. The delays in testing availability have slowed the response and put more people unnecessarily at risk.

I am calling on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to take the following emergency actions so our country can address this pandemic head on and mobilize resources accordingly:

- The CDC must broaden the criteria for testing to the discretion of medical providers. Sick people are not being tested because they do not meet all of the existing criteria.
- To keep sick people from contaminating doctor offices and hospitals, CDC should encourage "drive-thru" testing locations and hasten test response times.
- CDC must work to strengthen the supply chain and get necessary testing materials to every lab capable of diagnosing this virus.

The American people cannot and will not accept these delays any longer, particularly when they witness effective, efficient testing taking place in other advanced countries. I look forward to your swift and decisive action.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN